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FOR RELEASE

Mr. Metzler
Mr. Mooney

Miniature painting; illustration for a manuscript of the Shahnamah of Firdawsi. Persia, Herat, Timurid period, Circa 1440.

Scene from the Iranian compaign against Turan in which Rustam (wearing his familiar leopard skin cap) on foot meets the challenge of Ashkabus. He first shoots an arrow into the breast of the horse which "fell head foremost" and then one into the breast of Ashkabus. In the right background, the Turanian army with the Khan of Chin on a white elephant; in the left, the Iranian army. The dominant color is the lavender of the terrain; the sky is blue with little gold clouds. The colors of the costume and banner are predominantly gold, blue and green and gunmetal gray for the armour. The rendering of the scene here very close to that in a manuscript in the Royal Asiatic Society, London. Gift of John C. Heege. 12 3/4" by 7 7/8".

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